

Letter from Arthur W. McCurdy to Alexander Graham Bell, September 25, 1899

File 1331 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D.C. September 25th. 1899. Dear Mr. Bell: —

I was very much delighted to receive your note of the 19th. instant with your cordial wishes for my success — AND a check for (\$1,000.00) one thousand dollars on capital account to aid me in launching my invention.

Your letter is a very handsome one, and knowing as I do your attitude towards your capital account I can appreciate more than any one else what a check on that account means, and I hope sincerely that it will turn out a capital investment.

Last Thursday Mr. Totten handed me a check for five hundred dollars to assist in getting out the foreign patents and I ordered Mr. Dodge to prepare them. In fact I had already committed myself the week before when Mr. Totten expressed great faith in foreign patents and offered to help take them out. My feeling is that if I have my American patents and have made application for the foreign patents I shall stand better before business men than if I had American patents only, and besides it might be well to file foreign patents before anything appears in the papers here about the invention. Mr. Dodge assures me that he will arrange matters in such a way that there will be no danger whatever to the American rights.

Now that I have at last got matters into some sort of business shape I feel the want of good counsel, and I miss you very much. I hope I shall come out somewhere nearly all right, but I fear that you have not much faith in my business judgment. Mr. Totten is very anxious for me to go on to New York with him and consult a connection of his, Mr. Adams, of Scovill and Adams, and he says that if Mr. Adams expresses a favorable opinion there

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will be no difficulty in raising all the money necessary to make a big thing of the invention. Mr. Adams is wealthy, and has wealthy connections, and is a business man of high standing.

Mr. Charles Bell will be home on Wednesday and if he has time I hope that he will be able to go into matters with me.

With grateful appreciation of your interest and help — always in the nick of time — I am,
Yours sincerely, ArthurWMcCurdy